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ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE
HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

FOR
1917.

BY
LANCELOT NEWTON,

M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Huntingdon Rural
District Council.

HUNTINGDON:
Cooper & Co., Printers, High Street.

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1917.

The same instructions issued by the Local Government Board last year again hold good:—viz that the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health is to be confined to the work that has been done and to the prevalence of infectious disease omitting that which will have to be done when more favourable conditions arise.

Census.

The figures adopted are those supplied by the General Register Office, Somerset House and are for calculating the birth rate 6808. and for the death rate 6107, a difference of 701, showing the number from the district engaged in the war in some capacity. This is an increase of 101 on the previous year.

Birth Rate.

A total of 97 births—50 male and 47 females—was registered in the district, making a birth rate of 14.24 per 1000 of population, a rate lower by 3.5 than that given for England and Wales. Over 5 per cent of the births were illegitimate.

Death Rate.

Eighty one deaths were registered in the district making a death rate of 11.89 per 1000 of population. To this number must be added 18 deaths that occurred in Institutions outside the district but in persons belonging thereto, making a corrected death rate of 16.5 per 1000. It will thus be seen that the death rate, although applying only to the civil population, is higher than the birth rate.

The different Institutions referred to above are:—

The Huntingdon County Hospital.

The Workhouse Infirmary.

The Three Counties Asylum.

Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge.

Peterborough Infirmary.



Infant Mortality.

Nine deaths of children under one year of age make an Infantile death rate of 92·73 per 1000 births or a fraction more than 9 per cent of the total number. Of these nine deaths three occurred in children of premature birth.

Zymotic Death Rate.

The Zymotic death rate is nil.

Prevalence of Disease.

Scarlet Fever.

There were only three cases notified and which occurred as follows :—

Alconbury	...	1 case.
Woodwalton	...	2 cases in one house.

In neither instance was I able to trace the origin of the disease.

Measles and German Measles.

Forty two cases were notified and were distributed in twelve parishes as follows :—

Alconbury	...	3 cases in	2 houses.
Alconbury Weston		5 cases in	4 houses.
Ellington	...	1 case	
Hamerton	...	11 cases in	5 houses.
Hartford	...	2 „	2 „
Leighton	..	5 „	2 „
Sawtry ...	...	3 „	3 „
Great Stukeley...		3 „	2 „
Little Stukeley...		4 „	1 house
Spaldwick	...	2 „	2 houses.
Upton ...	...	2 „	2 „
Woodwalton	...	1 case	

42 cases in 27 houses.

This is the second year in which these diseases have been compulsorily notifiable and not altogether with a satisfactory result.

Measles is a disease which is communicable to another person in its earliest stages so that notification to be of any value, should be given at the earliest opportunity. The failure to notify cases is more frequent than it should or need be with the result that the earlier cases very soon start a wide epidemic.

Diphtheria.

The only case notified occurred at Sawtry. Antitoxin was obtained from the County Council. The case recovered and there was no further spread of the disease. I was unable to trace the source.

Erysipelas.

There were only three cases notified.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

The only case occurred at Great Stukeley, was contracted away from home. It was removed to the Fever Hospital at Huntingdon on sufferance. This Hospital is without the district and it would be advisable if some satisfactory arrangement could be made for the reception of such cases.

Influenza.

There were four deaths registered from this disease which was fairly general throughout the district.

Tuberculous Diseases.

Ten deaths were registered under this heading. Six from pulmonary tuberculosis and four from other tuberculous diseases. All tuberculous cases desiring public treatment are under the care of the Tuberculosis Officer appointed by the County Council. The only duty devolving on your authority is to see to disinfection when necessary and that the houses are suitable for the home treatment of the disease.

Heart Disease.

Eleven deaths were reported under this heading five of which occurred in persons over 70 years of age.

Respiratory Diseases.

Sixteen deaths were registered under this heading;—Ten of which were from bronchitis, three from pneumonia and three from other respiratory diseases.

Cancer.

Eleven deaths are classified under this heading and were distributed as follows :—

Parish	Sex.	Age.
Alconbury	M. F.	71. 84.
Brampton	F. F.	59. 54.
Ellington	M.	85.
Hartford	M.	55.
Sawtry... ..	3. M. 2. F.	73. 75: 57. 43. 81.

This, as last year, is above the average number viz 9·8. The figures supplied by the General Register Office give the number of deaths under this heading as twelve but I am unable to find any trace of it in the returns supplied to me by the local registrar so have omitted it in the total given above.

Housing and Town Planning Acts 1909.

The number of Houses inspected under this act was twelve. On twelve occasions I accompanied the Designated Officers, four of the twelve cases reported were remedied without resource to closing orders. There were no cases reported to the local Authority with a

view to closing orders. As last year all action is taken under Sec. 15. Section 17 being tacitly in abeyance during the war.

Bakehouses, Slaughter Houses and Dairies.

BAKEHOUSES.—The number on the register is the same as last year viz 17. All were found on inspection in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—These are twelve in number and are all private. All on inspection were found in a clean condition.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.—The number of milk sellers is 40 and all are registered. They have been regularly inspected and found in fair condition.

The accompanying table prepared by the Inspector shows the work that has been done during the year.

The usual table showing the water supply of each parish is omitted this year as it is practically the same as that given for 1916.

I have made with the Inspector of Nuisances, a house-to-house visitation of the district.

I have omitted all reference to work that will have to be done until times and seasons are more favourable.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LANCELOT NEWTON.
M.O.H.

ALCONBURY HILL,

June 8th, 1918.

7.

ALCONBURY WESTON,
1918.

DEAR SIR,

Herewith I append summary of work carried out during 1917.

1.	Parishes inspected	...	...	...	...	...	26
2.	Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	917
3.	Houses re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	144
4.	New Earth Closets caused to be erected	...	...	...	...	...	1
5.	Earth Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
6.	Public Drains, Ditches, cleansed repaired or flushed	...	...	...	...	...	21
7.	Private Drains repaired after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	13
8.	Public pumps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
9.	Private pumps and wells repaired after notice	...	...	...	...	...	6
10.	Houses disinfected after infectious illness	...	...	...	...	...	34
11.	Houses repaired under town Planning Act	...	...	...	...	...	4
12.	New Ashbins caused to be provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
13.	Milksellers registered	...	...	...	...	...	40

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK FORTESCUE,

Inspector of Nuisances.

Causes of Deaths in Huntingdon Rural District, 1917.

Causes of Death.				Males.	Females.
All Causes (Civilians only) ...				44	55
1.	Enteric Fever ..	...	...	—	—
2.	Small Pox ...	...	...	—	—
3.	Measles ...	...	...	—	—
4.	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	—	—
6.	Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	—	—
7.	Influenza ...	...	...	3	1
8.	Erysipelas ...	...	...	—	—
9.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	...	3	3
10.	Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	—	—
11.	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	1	3
12.	Cancer Malignant Disease ...	...	...	6	6
13.	Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...	—	—
14.	Meningitis ...	...	...	1	—
15.	Organic Heart Disease ...	...	...	5	6
16.	Bronchitis ..	...	...	2	8
17.	Pneumonia (all Forms) ...	...	...	3	—
18.	Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	1	2
19.	Diarrhoea, &c (under 2 years). ...	...	...	—	—
20.	Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	...	...	1	—
21.	Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	...	1	—
21a.	Alcoholism ...	...	...	—	—
22.	Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	...	...	—	1
23.	Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	—	—
24.	Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	—	—
25.	Congenital Debility, &c. ...	...	...	2	2
26.	Violence apart from Suicide. ...	...	...	—	1
27.	Suicide ...	...	...	—	1
28.	Other defined Diseases ...	...	...	15	20
29.	Causes ill-defined or unknown. ...	...	...	—	1
Special Causes included above.				<hr/>	
	Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis... ...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year of Age ...				3	6
Total Births ...				50	47
Legitimate ...				47	45
Illegitimate ...				3	2
Population for Birth Rate ...				6808	
for Death Rate ...				6107	



